CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to determine the ability of a solution to bind cationic species, comprising:

sampling the solution; and

reacting the solution in a test solution to bind cationic species.

- 2. The method in Claim 1 wherein said ability is determined by utilizing the sequestrating, chelating, or other means of binding cationic species power of the solution being tested to react with a cationic species in a test solution.
- 3. The method in Claim 2 wherein a sample of said solution being tested is titrated into said test solution.
- 4. The method in Claim 2 wherein said test solution changes color dependent upon the ability of said solution being tested to sequester, chelate, or otherwise bind cationic species.
- 5. The method in Claim 2 wherein the quantity of an additive required to be added to said solution being tested to bring said solution back to within specification is determined.
 - 6. The method in Claim 1 wherein said solution is a coolant solution.
- 7. A formulation for determining the ability of a solution to bind cationic species, comprising an indicatory dye.

- 8. The formulation of Claim 7 wherein the indicator dye is configured to react with a cationic species to change color from that when the cationic species is absent.
 - 9. The formulation of Claim 7 including a cationic species.
 - 10. The formulation of Claim 7 including a source of hydroxide.
 - 11. The formulation of Claim 7 including a solvent.
- 12. The formulation of Claim 7 including two parts, part A and part B, and wherein part A comprises:
 - 1. Said indicator dye
 - 2. Said cationic species
 - 3. Said hydroxide source and part B comprises said solvent.
- 13. The formulation of Claim 12 wherein Part A further includes a tabletizing binder allowing Part A to be formed as a tablet.
 - 14. The formulation of Claim 13 further including an extender.
- 15. The formulation of Claim 14 wherein said extender performs as a tabletizing binder allowing Part A to be formed as a tablet.
- 16. The formulation of Claim 9 wherein said cationic species is Calcium.

- 17. The formulation of Claim 10 wherein said hydroxide source is Calcium Hydroxide.
- 18. The formulation of Claim 11 wherein said solvent is water essentially free of Calcium.